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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 127: UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 128: UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM (continued) (A/C.5/45/76 and 77; A/C.5/45/L.33)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.33, on which informal consultations had continued following its distribution. Further to those consultations, paragraph 1 had been amended to read:

> "Expresses deep concern and regret at the actions taken unilaterally by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation without due regard for their obligations under the common system;"

and paragraph 4 had been amended to read:

> "Requests the Commission and the Board to examine the basis for the decisions taken by the International Telecommunication Union and the International Labour Organisation and the implications for the common system, within the context of their respective relevant work programmes, and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session".

2. The Committee was fully aware of and sensitive to the concerns of staff in Geneva in respect of pensions. It was for that reason that the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Fifth Committee, had mandated comprehensive studies by the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. Unilateral action by ITU offered no solution; it was thus of the utmost importance for ITU and other specialized agencies to refrain from implementing any such action that might have been contemplated. Preservation of the common system was of paramount concern, and a solution must be found within that framework.

3. The draft resolution recalled the role of ICSC with regard to conditions of entitlement, and the Committee had already asked the Pension Board to study the ITU proposal as one possible long-term approach to the adjustment of pensions in local currency terms, an issue to which the Board had given priority. ITU was asked not to implement its proposal. The operative paragraphs expressed concern at the actions taken unilaterally by ITU and ILO, reaffirmed the principle of common personnel standards, emphasized the obligation of all organizations of the common system to cooperate fully with ICSC and the Pension Board, requested both those bodies to examine the implications of the decisions of the two agencies and to give the matter the highest priority, and appealed to organizations of the common system not to establish additional entitlements and benefits for their staff, since under the common system all staff should receive equal treatment.

4. Mr. BARE (International Telecommunication Union) said that the draft resolution failed to note that the ITU proposal on pensions, which had been put forward on an interim basis, would not be implemented if the United Nations General Assembly adopted measures providing comparable protection. With regard to the question of special post allowances, the draft resolution failed to note that the allowance would be paid only to the staff members performing additional duties.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that both those issues had been discussed in the informal consultations and had been taken into account in formulating the draft resolution before the Committee. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/45/L.33, as orally revised, without a vote.

6. It was so decided.

7. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution without a vote. His delegation was aware of the concerns of staff members in high-cost duty stations, but a response must come through the common system to ensure that no further discrepancies were introduced between staff members serving in the same duty station.

8. With regard to the reference in document A/C.5/45/76 to the report of the Salary Review Committee (A/3209), it did not seem that the General Assembly had, in resolution 1095 (XI), actually adopted that report. In any event it had been superseded by the statute of ICSC, which had been voluntarily accepted by organizations of the common system.

9. He noted that no other meeting of the ITU Administrative Council was due to be held prior to implementation of the pension purchasing power protection insurance plan. The right of the Secretary-General of ITU to grant special allowances for additional duties was not in question, provided such allowances were granted in accordance with the ITU Staff Regulations. Lastly, he trusted that the Pension Board, in implementing the draft resolution just adopted by the Committee, would take particular account of articles 3 (c) and 16 (a) of the Pension Fund Regulations.

10. Mr. BEL HADJ AMOR (Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission) said that he would bring the contents of the draft resolution to the Commission's attention.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 127 and 128.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.